Posting of guards at strategic railway bridges

1658. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to post guards at all the strategic railway bridges particularly in sensitive areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The primary responsibility for providing protection to railway track and bridges is of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. They are to determine the security needs of startegic bridges. No proposal on the lines indicated in the Question is under consideration of the Central Government.

Working of the Delhi Tourism Development Corporation

1659. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Administrative Reforms Department of the Delhi Administration conducted a work study of the Delhi Tourism Development Corporation in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations made by the Department in their report; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to implement the report of the Administrative Reforms Department?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the activities of the Corporation in January 1987 the Work Study Team has assessed the requirement of posts in the Corporation at 531. The other recommendations include:

(i) the surplus staff should be identified and deployed in units where the work is in arrears.

(ii) Corporation should organise suitable training programmes to up-grade the skill of the employees.

The Work Study also recommended early formulation of Recruitment Rules for various posts in the Corporation.

(c) The recommendations made by Administrative Reforms Department were approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation at their meeting held on 26th March, 1987.

Since then the Corporation has identified the surplus staff and 31 surplus employees have been deputed to various offices of Delhi Administration. Some surplus man-power is being deployed to man the new wine shops opened by the Corporation in the recent past.

As regards training, the supervisory staff of Catering Division has already under gone training in the area of Food Cost Control. The Corporation is in touch with the Computers Maintenance Corporation for organising a training course for the staff in the field of computers.

The Corporation has also formulated Recruitment Rules for various posts which have since been approved by the Board of Directors.

Retention of lawyers abroad to look after the interests of emigrant workers

1660. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to raise a fund to retain lawyers abroad to fight the claims of Indian emigrant workers and to meet the expenses of their repatriation in case they are stranded; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and when such a fund is likely to be raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) As a part of proposed amendments to the Emigration Act 1983, a proposal is under consideration for creation of a welfare fund for Emigrants to be funded mainly from Emigration Fees. The welfare fund, when created, may provide for legal assistance to emigrants in their disputes in local courts etc.

Provision already exists for repatriating stranded Indian workers against their security deposits to Protectors of Emigrants in India. Indian Missions also have powers to repatriate a destitute Indian as a part of consuler function after getting undertakings from them that they would refund the amount spent on them on reaching India. Likewise Indian Mission can also put an Indian national in touch with a lawyer but they do not have the authority to bear the lawyer's fees etc.

Restart of Textile mills in Indore and Ratlam

1661. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether at any stage, the workers of M/s. Shri Sajjam Mills at Ratlam and M/s. Hope Textiles Ltd., Indore, approached the Union Government with proposals that the managements of these closed units be handed over to the cooperatives of the workers;

(b) if so, what was Central Governments' response thereto; and

(c) what other alternatives are being considered by the Central Government to restart these textile mills with a view to safeguard the interests of the workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) A Nodal Agency has been set up under the June 1985 Textile Policy to ascertain whether sick textile mills are potentially viable or not. The Nodal Agency evolves and manages rehabilitation packages for mills that are potentially viable. Mills found by it to be non-viable may have to close down permanently. The workers of those mills which close down permanently on or after 6 June, 1985 will be eligible for financial assistance under the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme. The Nodal Agency has come to the conclusion that Shri Sajjan Mills, Ltd., Ratlam and Hope Textile Ltd., Indore are non-viable.

Scarcity of rayon

1662. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the scarcity of rayon in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ease the scarcity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The availability of viscose staple fibre and viscose filament yarn through indigenous protection is supplemented by imports under OGL. The Government has issued letters of intent for fresh capacity and is keeping a constant watch.

Identification of bonded labour by voluntary Organisations in MP

1663. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any voluntary organisations of Madhya Pradesh had taken up the work of identification of bonded labour and made requests for their rehabilitation to the Central Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, what action the Central Government has taken in the matter: